

Dear Friend,

As Congress gets started on our summer work period, I wanted to report to you on what we've achieved lately, as well as what issues are on the horizon in Washington.

In the weeks before Memorial Day, Congress passed a series of consumer protection bills that put the American people first as we work to restore consumer confidence and move back toward prosperity.

Congress has worked with President Obama to slow the foreclosure crisis that is at the root of this recession. We have taken unprecedented action that will help millions of American homeowners who are facing foreclosure. This isn't about punishing responsible Americans, and it isn't about rewarding people who lived beyond their means. This is about protecting American families who worked hard and played by the rules, but are still in danger of losing their homes during this economic downturn. The President's plan will make it easier for families stuck in unaffordable mortgages to refinance their loans at reasonable terms. The Congress also passed the Helping Families Save Their Homes Act, which provides incentives for lenders to modify bad mortgages, and helps homeowners to avoid foreclosure.

The House passed landmark reform legislation to crack down on predatory lending practices

and protect American homeowners. [The Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act](#) responds to the root causes of the subprime mortgage crisis and the ensuing recession by ending unfair lending practices and putting in place new measures to hold banks and lenders who issue mortgages more accountable. As a long-time advocate for mortgage reform legislation, I was pleased that this bill passed with overwhelming bipartisan support.

Also last month, President Obama signed into law the [Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights](#). This important law will protect consumers from unfair practices and exorbitant penalties that cost Americans billions of dollars every year. Because of this law, credit card companies will no longer be able to raise interest rates on existing balances for accounts in good standing, and card issuers will have to give customers ample notice before changing service agreements. Additionally, this law cracks down on gimmicky promotions and restricts the issuing of credit cards to minors. Along with my Republican colleague from Rep. Mike Turner (OH-03), I wrote an op-ed piece underscoring the importance of this legislation, which helps to level the playing field between lenders and borrowers.

I was also proud to introduce legislation recently that will help protect local governments from the type of risky and fraudulent financial transactions that led to this economic downturn. [The Municipal Financial Advisors Regulation Act \(HR 2550\)](#) would aim to ensure local governments are receiving sound financial advice and would establish regulations for professionals providing financial advice to municipalities.

In the months ahead, Congress will address a number of important topics such as healthcare reform and climate change, and I hope you will be in touch with my office so I can hear your views on these critical issues.

## **Ready for the DTV Switch?**

On June 12, 2009, television stations in greater Cincinnati will start broadcasting exclusively in digital television (DTV). If you own a newer television or subscribe to cable, you're probably ready for the transition. But if you use an older television and receive over-the-air broadcasts, you may need to purchase a digital converter box so that your television will still work correctly. Fortunately, coupons have been made available to every American household to help cover the cost. To get your coupon, or for more information, please visit [www.dtv.gov](http://www.dtv.gov) or call 1-888-CALL-FCC.

## **New Passport Rules**

There are new rules if you are travelling to Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, and countries in the Caribbean region. As of June 1, 2009, U.S. citizens entering the United States at sea or land ports of entry will need to have a passport, passport card, or other travel document approved by the Department of Homeland Security. More information is available on the State Department's website: [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cbpmc/cbpmc\\_2223.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cbpmc/cbpmc_2223.html) .

## **My Website**

I'm pleased to announce that my new website is now up and running at [www.driehaus.house.gov](http://www.driehaus.house.gov). There you will find information on the issues that matter most to the First District of Ohio, different services my office can provide, and many different ways to contact me. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Steve Driehaus

Member of Congress